

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/540,143
Response filed June 27, 2008
Reply to OA dated March 6, 2008

second marks are positioned at an end of the cable so as to be opposite to each other in relation to an axial center of the cable. The sheathing layer of the cable has the first and second outer surface portions each extending in a longitudinal direction of the cable. At least one of the first and second outer surface portions is provided with a plurality of the first and second marks that are alternately positioned in the longitudinal direction of the cable. The first mark is longer than the second mark in the longitudinal direction of the cable.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action is mischaracterizing the disclosure of Masuda et al., for the following reasons. The Office Action first alleges that the claimed "first outer surface portion" and "second outer surface portion" are "outer surfaces of the left and right ends" in Masuda et al. (see page 6, lines 14-16 and page 9, lines 1 and 2 in the Office Action). Then, it is alleged that the claimed "first outer surface portion" and "second outer surface portion" are "top and bottom surface portions" (see page 8, lines 4 and 5, below drawing 11 in the Office Action).

In Claim 1, it is defined that "the second outer surface portion is positioned opposite the first outer surface portion in a circumferential direction of the cable". Therefore the "left and right ends" allegation is in error.

Regarding what is shown in drawings 11 and 12 of Masuda et al., drawing 12 may show marks of differing colors alternately arranged along the length of a wire on either a first outer surface portion or a second outer surface portion. However, drawing 12 cannot show anything about the other outer surface portion, as it can't be seen. Drawing 11 is a drawing showing an example of electric-wire marking equipment which gives multicolor marks. The marks are those shown in

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drawing 12. However, the various marks shown on the outer surface of the wire can give no teaching as to how marks of a first color and second color are arranged on the first and second outer surface portions, even if "top and bottom surface portions" are considered.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Masuda et al. cannot possibly teach the claimed "a first mark having a first color and provided on a first outer surface portion of an outer surface of the sheathing layer, and a second mark having a second color and provided on a second outer surface portion of the outer surface of the sheathing layer, wherein the second color is different from the first color, and the second outer surface portion is positioned opposite the first outer surface portion in a circumferential direction of the cable, the first and second marks positioned at an end of the cable so as to be opposite to each other in relation to an axial center of the cable", as presently claimed.

A cable having the claimed first and second marks, which is defined above, is shown in present FIG. 1 wherein, for example, first mark (7) of one color and second mark (8) of another color are shown. It is respectfully submitted that drawings 11 and 12 of Masuda et al. cannot possibly disclose or suggest this claimed arrangement.

The Kondo reference does not cure the deficiencies of Masuda et al. and neither reference, alone or in combination with the other, teaches or suggests Applicants' electrical cable.

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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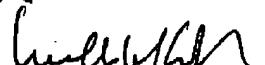
It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 6, 2008, and that Claims 1 and 4 are patentable.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time